Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /048 R

DRAFTED BY AF/S: MCHISEK:GFH
APPROVED BY AF: WBEDMONDSON
AF/S: LMACFARLANE
----------040779 030246Z /75
O 030220Z DEC 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG PRIORITY
AMCONSUL DURBAN PRIORITY
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 288741

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, SHUM, PINT, SF

SUBJECT: PRESS REMARKS BY AF ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOOSE

1. FOLLOWING IS REUTERS ACCOUNT OF A PRESS BRIEFING GIVEN BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOOSE TO A GROUP OF REPORTERS ON DECEMBER 2 CONCERNING THE DECISION MADE IN THE BIKO, AND THE SOUTH AFRICAN ELECTIONS.

2. QUOTE: A SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL TODAY EXPRESSED SHOCK AT A SOUTH AFRICAN INQUEST CLEARING POLICE OF BLAME IN THE DEATH OF BLACK LEADER STEVE BIKO.

QUOTE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE RICHARD MOOSE TOLD REPORTERS HERE: 'THERE'S A PARTICULAR HORROR ABOUT THE KIND OF VIOLENCE PERPETRATED ON BIKO. TO TAKE A
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HELPLESS MAN, KEEP HIM HANDCUFFED AND NAKED AND TREAT HIM IN THAT MANNER...THERE WAS VERY HEAVY EVIDENCE, EVEN IF NOT PROVEN, THAT VIOLENCE WAS PERPETRATED AGAINST HIM.'

QUOTE MR. MOOSE SAID THE DECISION BY THE MAGISTRATE WAS 'REALLY SHOCKING.'

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QUOTE THE UNITED STATES URGED A FAIR AND IMPARTIAL INQUEST INTO THE SEPTEMBER 12 DEATH OF THE BLACK POLITICAL LEADER IN POLICE CUSTODY. MR. MOOSE'S REMARKS REFLECTED OFFICIAL SKEPTICISM THAT THIS WOULD BE POSSIBLE UNDER SOUTH AFRICAN AUSPICES.

QUOTE MR. MOOSE, WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR AFRICAN AFFAIRS, ALSO SAID HE THOUGHT THE SWEEPING ELECTION VICTORY THIS WEEK OF PRIME MINISTER JOHN VORSTER DID NOT BODE WELL FOR U.S. HOPES OF ENCOURAGING A DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE RACES.

QUOTE HE SAID THE WHITE-RULED GOVERNMENT'S CAMPAIGN SEEMED TO BE RUNNING AGAINST PEOPLE OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY RATHER THAN ATTEMPTING TO ADDRESS ISSUES WITHIN SOUTH AFRICA.

QUOTE BUT HE HELD OUT HOPE THAT MR. VORSTER'S INCREASED STRENGTH MIGHT ENABLE HIM TO MOVE TOWARD A MORE MODERATE POSITION. 'HE HAS THAT OPPORTUNITY. I HOPE HE TAKES ADVANTAGE OF IT.' -- HE SAID.

QUOTE MR. MOOSE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE NATIONAL PARTY'S IMPRESSIVE GAINS AND APPARENT INTENTION TO CONTINUE ITS POLICIES MIGHT BE BLAMED ON CARTER ADMINIS-
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TRATION PRESSURES ON SOUTH AFRICA.

QUOTE THOSE WHO TAKE THAT VIEW HAVE TO TAKE THE RESPONSIBILITY TO PROVE THAT THERE WAS ANY DISPOSITION TO MOVE OTHERWISE,' HE SAID, ADDING THAT THE UNITED STATES HAD NOT STIMULATED OR PROVOKED ANY UNREST IN SOUTH AFRICA.

QUOTE THE DISTURBANCES LAST YEAR IN SOWETO, THE BLACK TOWNSHIP OUTSIDE JOHANNESBURG, AROSE OVER WHETHER SCHOOL LESSONS WERE TO BE GIVEN IN THE AFRIKAANS LANGUAGE, HE SAID. END QUOTE. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Event:
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
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SAS ID: 370175
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS REMARKS BY AF ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOOSE
TAGS: SOPN, SHUM, PINT, SF
To: PRETORIA JOHANNESBURG MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/66f9430c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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